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# Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission

## **Commission Members:**

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**Executive Director**  
Christopher M  
Thompson

March 4, 2005

To: Members, Education Committees of the  
House of Representatives and the Senate

From: David Fisher, Chairman  
Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission

Re: Report to the Washington State Legislature -- Progress toward  
2004 Performance Improvement Goals for Grades 4, 7, and 10

The attached report concerns the progress of schools and school districts throughout Washington toward performance improvement goals in reading, mathematics, and high school graduation. This report was prepared by staff of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction on behalf of the Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission. The Commission appreciates the assistance of the OSPI in completing this report again this year, just as OSPI staff developed last year's report on behalf of the Commission as well.

The report was presented to the Commission at a public meeting on February 7, 2005, and was adopted by the Commission at that time. The report is hereby transmitted to the Legislature and other agencies in accordance with statutory the requirements of RCW 28A.655.030(1)(I). The reading and mathematics improvement goals for grades 4, 7, and 10 are contained in Washington Administrative Code 3-20-100, while the high school graduation rate goals are found in WAC 3-20-300.

As this report illustrates, progress is being made to raise the percentages of students meeting standards in reading and mathematics on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Staff in districts and schools that met their improvement targets are to be commended. Even where efforts fell short of the target, many improvements are being made, for which the young people of our state will ultimately benefit. However, much progress remains yet to be made.



Upon adoption of this report, a number of Commission members expressed concerns that our state and local educational systems may not be gearing up sufficiently to give our students and school staff the support necessary to reach these sometimes ambitious goals. Having goals in place and tracking progress is critical, but even more important is having a sound plan in place for reaching the goals. The Commission urges state policy-makers and educational leaders at all levels to make every effort to ensure that students are prepared to earn the certificate of academic achievement and that schools and school districts have the tools needed to continue reaching performance improvement goals in future years.

Additional copies of this report may be obtained by calling (360) 725-6034. The report is also available to be downloaded from the Commission's web site at

[www.k12.wa.us/accountability](http://www.k12.wa.us/accountability)

cc: Governor Christine Gregoire  
Superintendent Terry Bergeson  
Members, State Board of Education